

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NIC-01 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 SR-02

ORM-01 DPW-01 FDRE-00 /071 W
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O R 031237Z APR 75

FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0248

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JEC PARIS 08290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: PRG HOLDS ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE IN PARIS

REF: (A) USDEL JEC PARIS 7567 (B)PARIS 8280

1. MR. DINH BA THI, THE ACTING HEAD OF THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE LA CELLE ST. CLOUD TALKS, GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 2 IN PARIS, HIS SECOND SUCH MEETING WITHIN NINE DAYS (SEE REF A). THE CONFERENCE LASTED WELL OVER AN HOUR AND WAS CROWDED.

2. THI READ AND DISTRIBUTED PRELIMINARY STATEMENT WHICH STRESSED THE IDEA THAT "POPULAR UPRISINGS" HAD CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE COMMUNIST SUCCESSES IN DANANG, QUI NHON, AND ELSEWHERE. EVIDENTLY STUNG BY THE WIDELY PUBLICIZED SCENES OF REFUGEES FLEEING THE COMMUNIST ADVANCE, THI STATED THAT "THE VERY GREAT MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION HAS CHOSEN TO STAY IN PLACE" AND IS HELPING THE PRG TO NORMALIZE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE "LIBERATED" AREAS. THE REFUGEES ARE MAINLY GVN ADHERENTS WHO HAVE "COMMITTED CRIMES AGAINST THE POPULATION" OR "ENRICHED THEMSELVES FROM THE WAR",
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HE CLAIMED, OR ELSE THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN

FORCED TO FLEE BY THE GVN. THI ADDED THAT THE USG APPEAL FOR A HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION IS A "COVER" FOR A MILITARY SHOW OF FORCE. HE WARNED THE USG AGAINST ANY SUCH ACTION. HIS STATEMENT CLOSED WITH A CALL FOR THE OVERTHROW OF "THE NGUYEN VAN THIEU CLIQUE" AND ITS REPLACEMENT BY "AN ADMINISTRATION REALLY WISHING PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, AND NATIONAL CONCORD AND ACCEPTING TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS ACCORD SCRUPULOUSLY". THE PRG WOULD ENTER INTO CONVERSATIONS WITH SUCH A GOVERNMENT "TO SOLVE RAPIDLY THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH VIETNAM", HE DECLARED.

3. THI HANDED OUT THREE OTHER DOCUMENTS. ONE OUTLINED A SO-CALLED "SEVEN-POINT POLICY" OF THE PRG. DATED MARCH 25, THIS PAPER DESCRIBED HOW THE COMMUNISTS PURPORT TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF PERSONS IN THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE POPULATION. A SECOND DOCUMENT, DATED MARCH 29, WAS A "CALL" OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM TO SUPPORT THE PRG'S POLICY, WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS THE CEASATION OF US "INTERVENTION", THE OUSTER OF THIEU AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON WITH WHICH THE PRG WOULD DISCUSS TERMS. THE THIRD DOCUMENT WAS DATED MARCH 30 AND ATTACKED THE USG EFFORT OF HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION, CALLING IT A VIOLATION OF THE PARIS ACCORD.

4. A "THIRD FORCE" REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE LIKEWISE HANDED OUT A DECLARATION. IT WAS SIGNED BY HEADS OF THE COMMUNIST-LEANING "FREE FORCES OF VIETNAM", A GROUP BASED IN PARIS UNDER THE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 249

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LEADERSHIP OF COL. TRAN DINH LAN. THI HAD OBVIOUSLY
APPROVED IN ADVANCE THIS "THIRD FORCE" DISTRIBUTION.

5. IN THE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER PERIOD, THI ELABORATED
ON THE ABOVE THEMES AND MADE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
POINTS:

(A) ASKED ABOUT THE "THIRD FORCE", THI SAID
MERELY IT COULD PLAY A ROLE IN A SETTLEMENT, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS ACCORD.

(B) HE WOULD NOT SPECIFY WHO COULD BE THE
LEADERS OF A SAIGON GOVERNMENT WITH WHICH THE
PRG WOULD ACCEPT TO TALK, SAYING ONLY THAT SUCH
PEOPLE ARE "RATHER NUMEROUS". HE AVOIDED AN
EXPLICIT ENDORSEMENT OF "BIG" MINH, BUT IMPLIED
THAT THE PRG REGARDED HIS ACTIVITIES FAVORABLY.

(C) IF THERE IS AN ACCEPTABLE GOVERNMENT IN
SAIGON, THI SAID THE PRG WOULD BEGIN TALKS WITH
IT IMMEDIATELY ON ALL INTERNAL SOUTH VIETNAMESE
QUESTIONS, INCLUDING A CEASEFIRE.

(D) THE "THIRD FORCE" IS CURRENTLY PARTICIPATING
IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE "LIBERATED" CITIES,

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THI CLAIMED.

(E) ASKED IF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS COULD VISIT
THE COMMUNIST-HELD CITIES, THI SAID HE BELIEVED
THE SITUATION WAS "NOT YET VERY FAVORABLE" FOR
THIS.

(F) REFERRING TO THE APRIL 1 STATEMENTS OF
ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, THI REGRETTED THAT THE
US STILL AIDS "THE THIEU CLIQUE". BECAUSE OF
THIS POLICY, HE SAID, THE US BEARS "THE ENTIRE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SERIOUS SITUATION NOW
PREVAILING IN SOUTH VIETNAM".

(G) ANSWERING A QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER COMMUNIST
TROOPS WOULD ENTER SAIGON, THI HEDGED SOMEWHAT
BUT ASSERTED THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE WOULD HAVE
"NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO PUNISH" THE GVN AND THE
US IF USG POLICY CONTINUES ON ITS PRESENT COURSE.

6. WE ARE POUCHING TO EA/VN AND EMBASSY SAIGON ALL
DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT THE CONFERENCE.
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